Sunday, December 20, 2009 ✦✦ Vol. 25 / No. 12



PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

COLOR IT CHRISTMAS Ushering in the holidays in nippy Baguio City are bouquets upon bouquets of bright red poinsettias. The traditional Christmas flower along with the sunflower blooms herald the season of Christmas in the country's summer capital. Now, it's almost here. Jesus' birthday is only—hold your breath—five days away but the celebration spills over well into January. It's tradition that Filipinos can't let Christmas go.

'Better than nothing'

Loren: Deal or no deal, Copenhagen a 'big step'

By Michael Lim Ubac

COPENHAGEN—THERE'S STILL MEXICO.

The two-week United Nations climate talks might have ended in great disappointment here and around the world, but the G-77 Group of developing nations including the Philippines is already gearing for a rematch in November with the United States-led West.

Sen. Loren Legarda and former Sen. Heherson Alvarez, the Philippines' chief climate negotiator, said the G-77 Group would take the battle to force rich nations to set binding emission cuts to Mexico, the host of next year's COP16 (Conference of Parties).

"Whether there is a deal or not, Copenhagen is not the endgame," said Legarda, the UN ambassador for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

"It's better than nothing," she said as she left Bella Center, the venue of the COP15 summit of 119 heads of state and government, who were still debating the so-called "Copenhagen Accord" agreed on by the United States, China, South Africa and India.

The proposed deal is nonbinding and sets no overall target for curbing greenhouse gas emissions. (See related stories on Page A10.)

BETTER A10

Tourists grew by 17% to 5.2M in Q3

By Kristine L. Alave

THE THIRD QUARTER, CONSIDERED the lean season in the local tourism industry, exceeded expectations as tourist arrivals grew by 17 percent to 5.2 million visitors, the Department of Tourism said.

In its recent quarterly report, the DOT said new tourism destinations, facilities and increased frequency of flights to the regions boosted the influx of local and foreign visitors to major destinations. The increase in the meetings, conferences and incentive travel market in destinations like Palawan also contributed to the hefty growth in visitor volume, the tourism department said.

Cebu was the most visited destination with 1.24 million visitors, posting a growth rate of 1.8 percent vis-a-vis the previous year's volume of 1.21 million.

It was followed by Camarines Sur, fast becoming known for its beaches

TOURISTS A6



O WOW! LIVING YOUR BEST LIFE Charice Pempengco with Oprah Winfrey, her adviser, manager who discovered her for the world on YouTube.

No stopping Christmas even at Mayon's evacuation centers

By Joanna P. Los Baños
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LEGAZPI CITY—THE HOLIDAY LIGHTS, wreaths and lanterns of varying colors, shapes and sizes at the Gogon Central School constantly remind some 3,800 evacuees from Barangay Bonga that, despite their current hardship, Christmas is coming.

The barangay lies within the seven-kilometer-radius danger zone at the foot of Mayon volcano and is directly threatened by lava rolling down Bonga gully on the southeastern slope.

The decorations, which were made by the students and left hanging from the ceilings and windows of their classrooms, greeted the evacuees as they arrived on Tuesday at the school designated as their temporary shelter.

Teacher Rose Alamo, 54, said she decided not to remove the decorations because she wanted the evacuees to "feel the Christmas spirit."

Taking time off from playing the game Chinese garter, 13-year-old evacuee Giorgina Chan said: "We're happy to see the decorations here. I'm excited about Christmas."

NO STOPPING A6

Charice on a roll: Voted best singer on Oprah in '09

By Pocholo Concepcion
Entertainment

IT'S THE YEAR OF CHARICE PEMPENGCO.

Early this week, the 17-year-old Filipino singing sensation learned that she topped an online poll of thousands of followers of TV host/entertainment mogul Oprah Winfrey, via the website oprah.com.

Pempengco's rendition of "Note to God" was voted Best Oprah Show Musical Performance, beating seven other big-name nominees: The rock band Journey (with another Filipino, Arnel Pineda, as front man), the Black-Eyed Peas (with a Fil-Am member, apl.de.ap), Michael Bublé, Rascal Flatts, Whitney Houston, Jennifer Hudson and James Taylor.

CHARICE A6



GMA run for Congress spurs Kit Tatad's own bid for Senate

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE SPECTER OF PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO possibly dominating the House of Representatives has spurred former Sen. Francisco Tatad into a last-minute sprint for a Senate seat.

Tatad, who was information minister under the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and a two-term senator in

GMA RUN A11

Ode to Joy's 10 million steps

By Francis T.J. Ochoa
Assistant Sports Editor

ON MAY 11, 2009, JOY ROJAS CELEBRATED her birthday in California with freshly picked oranges and cool water drawn from a backyard well courtesy of a stranger she remembers only as Tim.

"It's my birthday today," she told Tim. She had asked the stranger for directions earlier that day and they

ODE TO A11



JOY TO THE WORLD Joy Rojas and running partner Mai Macabe are silhouetted against the sunrise in her epic run across America. She says her runner's high is simple: It's bringing myself from one point to somewhere else.

INSIDE:
Glamour and Christmas at Rustan's Fashion Gallerie
• Tag Heuer drops Tiger Woods; Elin hires top divorce lawyer • Phivolcs: Mayon to blow up anytime • Gay politics loves action stars • Megastar's family Christmas: Sharon shares her views on family values, marriage and motherhood • Looking for the right place for a holiday feast? Check out our expert's suggestions • Sofitel's yuletide packages spare you the stress of trundling out the silverware to entertain at home • Champion storyteller: Something magical happens when this 10-year-old opens a book • Filipino shows Singapore how service is done



'Mayon could blow at any time'

Phivolcs: 197 quakes in 24 hours indicate possibility of eruption

LEGAZPI CITY—CONE-SHAPED MAYON VOLcano could blow its top within days, a government volcanologist said yesterday.

7 Maguindanao cops face axe for 'coverup'

NBI: We'll review security procedures



'Massive public indignation'

Ombudsman urged to suspend Yap, 5 DA officials


BPI
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Choose from Chicken Fingers or Keywest White Fish.
Just present your card and original charge slip to redeem.
Promo period is from Nov. 11 to Dec. 31, 2009.
Redemptions valid from 1:30 pm to 6:00 pm daily.
BPI Express Credit
Want a BPI Express Credit Card? Call 89-100 or log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com and apply now!
*Minimum single receipt.
One redemption per table per visit.
Per DTI NCR Permit No. 6021, Series of 2009

Tales of the season thrill kids at PDI Read-Along

Story of birth of Christ

Benefits of brown rice

Delighted kids



'What to look for in a poll'

Baguio centennial fete ends with native ritual

Reuse bags for sake of Mother Earth, say eco groups

Shop only for essentials

Poignant image

Break the plastic habit



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



Christmas trees for the environment

Woman stabs beau dead





Charice's performance on Oprah voted Best of '09

Holiday in Tagaytay

Overwhelming

Online poll



Real estate, food

New album, movie

No stopping Christmas even at Mayon's evacuation centers

Up to 3-4 months

Missing their mom

'Simbang Gabi'

24-hour curfew

Last eruption

Top Somalis coming to get antipiracy tips

DOH waiting for flu vaccine from WHO

THE DAILY GOSPEL







Gov't to go after Turtle Island sellers, buyers

CBCP to tackle media killings

PACMAN IN NP

LP rolls with the punches

Ninoy brother joins Noynoy campaign as 'guru'

Tourists grew by 17% to 5.2M in Q3



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WELCOME BACK President Macapagal-Arroyo is welcomed back by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Victor Ibrado upon her return from Copenhagen yesterday where the poor nations did not get what they want but she did bring home some "bacon."

GMA returns with $380-M pledges, if not climate change accord

By Christian V. Esguerra

At the frontline

Issue on the table

RP's contribution



OBAMA

Obama throws climate change talks into uproar

By John Heilprin

'Spin over substance'

Frustration

Confusion

'Like the Holocaust'

'Better than nothing' says UN envoy Loren

2 more years

'We have a voice'

Only deal available

Copenhagen is milestone

Mitigation, adaptation

Ode to Joy's 10 million steps

From page A1

bumped into each other inside a gasoline convenience store.

"Well, happy birthday," he told her.

And then she was off. Running.

Typical. Joy Rojas, a 44-year-old wisp of a woman with a sun-cooked complexion, always had to be somewhere else. You could tell by the restlessness that would seep into her body once she sat down for even a minute. She would shift almost uncontrollably—a bundle of boundless energy that refuses to be contained.

That's why even if there were sumptuous birthday celebrations surrounded by family and friends, No. 44 won't be forgotten for quite a while. On that day, she embarked on a transcontinental run across the United States.

Called "Takbong Pangarap" Rojas planned to run 5,000 kilometers or roughly 50 km every day for 100 days with only 20 days for rest.

Out of the several hundreds who have run across America, only 11 are women. Among them is another Filipino, running gear maker Cesar Guarin, who crossed the continent from New York to Los Angeles in 1980, completing the run on June 12, Independence Day.

Moving in place

"People keep asking me why I even thought of doing it," Rojas said. "I just tell them I'm a stubborn runner."

Stubborn, as she refuses to believe there are distances she cannot span with her two legs. She had previously, after all, covered Davao City to Mindanao to Pagudpud in Ilocos Norte. What's another 5,000 kilometers to add to her body odometer?

"There were other choices, actually like Australia. But we figured, why not go for the United States," she said.

After starting off from Eagle Rock Plaza in Glendale, California, in May Rojas finished her transcontinental run, reaching Central Park in New York in November, although a few weeks off schedule.

She arrived in the country on Dec. 11 and was feted at a luncheon last Thursday, hosted by Western Union at the Hotel InterContinental in Makati City—a celebration of the indomitable spirit of a woman who, quite simply, refuses to stay in one place.

At the luncheon, she moved from table to table, saying thanks to the people who supported her—bringing them to tears with each piece of gratitude. She posed for a photograph—head always slightly "posed" and cocked to the right—and then she'd be gone, off to another group for yet another photograph.

A writer starts running

Rojas is a writer by profession. Freelancing for several publishing companies—the Inquirer included—she has written sketches about socialite personalities, confining herself to a cramped seat in front of a desk, figuring out the right words to tell other people's stories.

Now, it is her story being told.

It began almost 10 years ago, when Rojas finally decided to leave the hell out of sitting still.

"I started running only because all I did was to dream and write and I got tired of sitting down and writing," she said.

Right attitude

It was that attitude that allowed her to conquer 16 states and 5,000 km of sometimes inhospitable and lonely terrain until she finally reached Central Park in New York. Psychoanalysts may sometimes infer meaning from a person's passion for running, searching for a trigger in childhood that led to all that footwork.

While Rojas draws metaphors from her running, hers is not as complicated as people may think.

"My version of a runner's high is really simple—it's bringing myself from one point to ... somewhere else," she said.

And boy, did she end up somewhere else. When she accomplished man's very Everest amid the distance. The first days two-thirds into her trip she felt something pop in her hip, which a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) test revealed to be a stress fracture, amped up the degree of difficulty.

"I think I was in Kansas at that time. I suddenly felt a pain in my hip. And you know, typical us, we self-diagnose. So I was just popping ibuprofen like they were M&Ms and I was telling my team, let's continue," Rojas related.

Fracture, torn muscle

Danny Tiro, a professional photographer she described as a "guardian angel in disguise," suggested she undergo an MRI and that's when her stress fracture was discovered. Further probing revealed she had a torn muscle, too. And she had been running with both conditions for about two weeks.

"Even when they told me that, I wanted to continue," she said. "I kept asking, 'can I run slowly? Can I walk?'"

"I told them I wasn't quitting. I may not be the fastest runner or the most graceful, but I am the most stubborn runner."

It wasn't that she was thinking of her beneficiaries. Western Union pledged $5,000 to the Social Services Division of the Philippine Heart Center and to the Anti-Tuberculosis program of the Inner Wheel Club in Quezon City—practically a dollar for every kilometer she ran. It wasn't just the commitments to every pit stop along the way.

Although she admitted that "it would've been a great disservice to the people who supported me if I quit because I felt a little pain," Rojas wanted to go on quite simply because she had to be somewhere else.

Six weeks of rest

Only when doctors told her she needed six weeks of rest and a steady diet of Vitamin D and calcium pills lest she completely break her hip bone did she finally agree to stay still. Only then.

"I guess I realized that when you have an injury you have to slow down," Rojas said.

The rest period set back her timetable but nobody really cared. Not even those who were financing her trip. Western Union's Mike Moreno told her not to worry about anything. "There is no doubt in my mind that you will finish the run," Moreno told her.

Besides, measuring Rojas' feat against time would diminish her accomplishment. She was, after all, measuring herself against the limits of human endurance.

Finish line

Finally, on a cool sunny Sunday on Nov. 22, she reached Central Park in New York City.

She landed with her tons of memories to the finish line. "Too many," she said. "But you will need three notebooks to write them all down."

She also kept mementos of the long trip. The piece of paper where the strangers named The "sparkplug" a map to set her off on her long journey. Snapshots of the places her sturdy legs took her. And pairs. Lots of pairs. "Even all the time and trouble I stayed in during my pit stops."

But more than that, she brought with her inspiration.

As an ultra-marathon (anything past the marathon or 42 km) runner, Rojas said economy of movement was very important. "You have to achieve a certain pace to cover really long distances."

10-M steps

Judging by her running stride, she averaged about half a meter per step. That means she made roughly 10 million steps on her coast-to-coast journey.

But judging by the tears that fell from the eyes of the people she thanked and the openness of strangers who supported and encouraged her throughout the run, that number is nothing compared to the lives Rojas will have touched every time her story is told.



BACK TO MAMA Joy Rojas is hugged by her mother as relatives and friends welcome her back during last week's reception hosted by sponsor Western Union.



FINALLY IN NEW YORK, Joy (right) and furry friend pose before the Statue of Liberty.



A MORNING PRAYER before another day on the road.

GMA run for Congress spurs Kit Tatad's own bid for Senate

From page A1

the post-Marcos era, said he had no plans of running for the Senate, but the announcement of Ms Arroyo's candidacy for a Pampanga congressional seat made him change his mind.

"On Dec. 1, the last day of filing, I saw the headline that GMA (Ms Arroyo) would run in Pampanga. It became clear to me that the next power play would be in Congress, that the House of Representatives would be the camp of GMA," Tatad said the Republican as Salvo in was protection.

He said that if Ms Arroyo would hold sway in the House, the Senate would have to act as a foil.

Tatad said his family was so against his running they have stopped talking to him. It was only recently that his wife stopped giving him the cold shoulder, he said.

Tatad was one of the last to file his candidacy papers. He is running as a guest candidate of the Pwersa ng Masa party of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Foolish

Though he did not name names, Tatad said running to run as the guest candidate of several political parties was foolish.

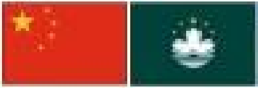
If you join a party, you are expected to endorse its standard-bearer, he said.

"Those who say that they're the guest candidate of four parties, that's foolishness," he said.

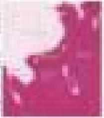
Among the several Senate aspirants running as guest candidates of more than one party is Ilocos Norte Rep. Ferdinand Marcos Jr., the son of the dictator.

Marcos earlier said he was a guest candidate of three political parties—the Nacionalista Party, the Partido ng Masang Pilipino and the Nationalist People's Coalition—but has been most visible with the NP.

Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago also said she was a guest candidate of the political parties—the administration's Lakas Kampi, the Pwersa ng Masa, the NP, the NPC and the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino.



The Handover to China



Macau SAR

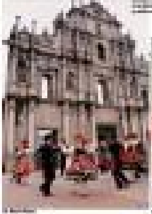
CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY

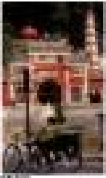


Macau Basic Facts

The Macau Government Tourist Office in the Philippines



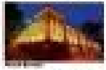




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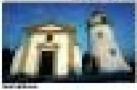


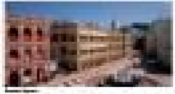




Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR)







INQUIRER

OPINION

Partisan commission

EDITORIAL

What happened to Document 1959?



SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

Going the extra mile

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

Uphold the Constitution

WITH DUE RESPECT
Artemio V. Panganiban



David's vote

METHOD TO MADNESS
Patricia Evangelista



'Flor's Gold'

AT LARGE
Rina Jimenez-David



Mexico's war of choice

WORLD VIEW
Jorge Castañeda



Erratum

TALK of the TOWN





Cyclones that visited the country in 2009

[illegible]

WEATHER MAN Michael Padua stands beside a Davis Vantage Pro2, a weather device installed on his rooftop in Naga City. It can calculate wind speed, barometric pressure, temperature, humidity and rainfall.

Michael Padua: One-man weather center

By Abain Papa

IN THIS AGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, STRONGER and more violent storms will be the norm rather than the exception, especially for vulnerable countries like the Philippines. The need for more accurate and quicker storm warnings becomes imperative for a country that gets hit by an average of 20 storms a year.

[illegible]

Website

[illegible]

Backup system

[illegible]

Thrill in tracking storm

[illegible]

Graphics

[illegible]

Watchdog

[illegible]

Surge after Ondoy

[illegible]

Satellite images

[illegible]

Separate agency

[illegible]

Typhoon preparedness

[illegible]

Losses from cyclones

P44.18 billion

[illegible]

394,475

[illegible]

1,238

[illegible]

P10.95 billion

[illegible]

185,004

[illegible]

464

[illegible]

P27.29 billion

[illegible]

54,373

[illegible]

492

[illegible]

Texting typhoon update



[illegible]

Fast

[illegible]

Ask questions

[illegible]

Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Comelec told cleansing voter's list in ARMM more urgent task

COTABATO CITY—Instead of conducting another round of voter's registration in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) should cleanse the region's list of voters to ensure fraud-free elections next year, acting ARMM Gov. Ansaruddin Adiong said yesterday.



FOREST MURDER

Keon says facing cousin Imee in race 'sad'

By Cristina Arzadon
Inquirer Northern Luzon

Motorists steer clear of Bocaue 'cracker lane'

By Carmela Reyes
Inquirer Central Luzon



3 tugboat crew members seized by gunmen set free in Zambo

UPLB professor sacked over sex harassment case

INQUIRER Mindanao

Fugitive tribal leader gets 'green award'

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Davao City





The annual Gift Giving Activity of LRP Foundation, Inc. for the year 2009 was held at Saint Arnold Janssen Shrine Parish in Cainta, Rizal on December 5 in coordination with HAPAGASA. The outreach program was headed by LRP Chairman Macario S. Rufino; Trustees Marixi R. Prieto and Alejandro R. Prieto; and Vice President Manuel R. Chanco III, with the assistance of its employee volunteers.



GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor: Gerry Lirio

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

Celebrating Christmas in US, RP-style



Start after Thanksgiving

Getting the youth interested

When they come together, Filipino Americans try to recreate Christmas the way they knew it in the Philippines: There's the *Simbang Gabi*, house-to-house caroling, and wall-to-wall decoration, all meant to make them feel like they never left



Gary Lopez awardee



Deportation separates families even at Christmas

IMFO



No legal recourse

Family unity

Amazing faith

Sunday Sports

Editor: Teddyvic S. Melendres



FIREWORKS light up the Laotian sky as the 25th Southeast Asian Games come to a close in Vientiane last Friday night.

Texters hold off Giants

Aces eye sixth straight; Kings, Beermen battle

Thais grab SEA Games crown over Vietnamese

NBA

76ers end Celtics 11-game run



CHRIS Paul: Near triple-double

Guangzhou Asiad PSC's next target

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SPORTSWATCH



ULTRAMARATHON DEATH MARCH

Arnis now a national sport

RACING TIPS

Softball Fall Season resumes with heavy sked

By Marc Anthony Reyes

Excellent boxing start for 2012

IN HUDDLE



Salvador turns 40 as RP Open champ



ABL

Patriots subdue KL Dragons



Tiger voted top golfer by players

Ten scores ace

Rivera completes karting triple crown





Globe Business









The Globe Business Appreciation Night

The Rizal Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La Hotel lit up in Las Vegas style fashion last December 8, as Globe Business held its Appreciation Night for its Manila-based clients.

Globe Business pulled out all the stops to bring the sights and sounds of the infamous city to life. There were gaming tables and slot machines as the guests arrived at the venue while Elvis Presley, Madonna, Marilyn Monroe and Michael Jackson impersonators were present to accommodate fun photos in a Vegas-inspired Wedding Chapel tableau.

The night began with a cocktail event for the CXO clients. Globe Business Head Gil Genio briefly shared the business highlights for 2009 and offered a toast to formally thank and welcome their guests and friends to the event. A short program also featured remarkable performances from torch singer Mala Rony and amazing magic tricks from Ramon Raymundo, after which, the CXOs, along with other guests were requested to leave their tables to see the curtain pull that revealed an even more magnificent stage that held the main Las Vegas show.

The audiences were wowed by the impressive performances of some of the country's top artists and entertainers, including the very energetic dance numbers of Powerdance, Myah Forbes and The Band Singers. Master Magician Louie Hitalo also stunned the crowd with his one-of-a-kind magic act, singer comedienne Marissa Sanchez rendered a powerful song number and impersonator par excellence Joo Santos brought the house down with his superb impersonation of music icon Cher.

Globe CEO Ernest Cu, Gil Genio and Enterprise Segments Head Jesus Romero also gamely joined select employees in leading the crowd to a surprise dance floor number of Black Eyed Peas' "I Gotta Feeling". The fun and exciting evening was capped by a raffle draw for trips for two to Shangri-La Boracay and Plantation Bay in Cebu, several McIntosh LCD TVs, laptops and Blackberry Curve 8520 handsets among others.

"Globe Business succeeds because of its valued clients. Beyond servicing telecommunication requirements, we have built friendships and partnerships. These are reasons for us to celebrate," says Jesus Romero, in closing.



























A plus METRO

A home away from home for the holiday season

Unique facility takes away pain of longing for patients

IN WHAT WAS ONCE AN ABANdoned building in Quezon City, three sick boys will be spending the holiday season while undergoing treatment in various Metro Manila hospitals.

[illegible]

First and only temporary shelter

[illegible]

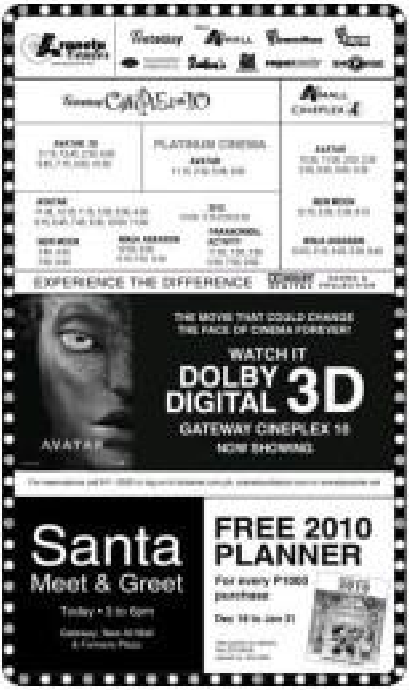


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A home away from home …



Counseling, storytelling

Free board and lodging





'A LOT OF NONSENSE'

FEU denies Peta's animal cruelty claim

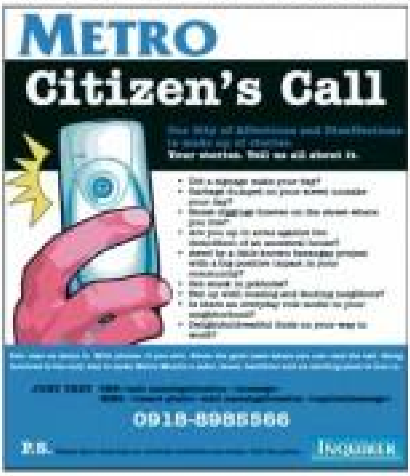
By Tina G. Santos

[illegible]

NBI getting tips from callers about Ivler

By Tina G. Santos

[illegible]



NPO suspends accredited printer for falsifying papers

By Nancy C. Carvajal

[illegible]

A home away from home ...

[illegible]



SMART


Y! SPORTS
YAHOO! Mail
flickr
Google
MTV
twitter
msn
Blogger
You Tube
friendster
facebook
Over 6 million actual users make SMART the most preferred wireless network to access the Internet.
Faster connection. Nationwide coverage. Latest technology.

New US-Russia nuclear arms deal 'quite close,' says Obama

Tag Heuer drops Woods; Elin hires top lawyer





Hackers breach Twitter for 3rd time this year

Thieves steal infamous Auschwitz death camp sign

Indian family in Dubai suicide over money woes

Needles successfully extracted from Brazil boy



New economic 'misery index' puts Spain on top of list

The WORLD

Editor: Lowenne B. Gozzo

In shift, US to make halting nuke terrorists a central aim

WASHINGTON—THE OBAMA ADMINISTRAtion's classified review of nuclear weapons policy will for the first time make thwarting nuclear-armed terrorists a central aim of US national security planning, according to senior Pentagon officials.

When completed next year, the Nuclear Posture Review will order the entire government to focus on countering nuclear terrorists—whether armed with rudimentary bombs, stolen warheads or devices surreptitiously supplied by a hostile state—as a task equal to the traditional mission of deterring a strike by major powers or emerging nuclear adversaries.

The nuclear review will affect how warheads are developed by the Department of Energy, deployed by the Department of Defense and limited through negotiations by the Department of State, as well as how the intelligence community and the military do their jobs and spend money. That could mean, for example, devoting less money to modernizing bombers, missiles and submarines, and more on surveillance satellites, reconnaissance planes and undercover agents.

The Nuclear Posture Review is scheduled to be released in February.

"The first—and in many ways the most urgent for where we are today—is the threat posed by nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism," said the official. At the core of this threat is "the possible transfer of nuclear weapons or materials to a terrorist or substate actor," he said.

The primary tools for countering this new danger are not nuclear weapons, but efforts to halt nuclear proliferation, to identify and attack terrorist networks, and to strengthen security measures with allies and partners. This would include US and international efforts to "secure nuclear weapons and materials worldwide," the official said.

So the review is likely to recommend more vigorous intelligence aimed at tracking nuclear smugglers and anticipating terrorist attacks, and more robust actions within the nuclear laboratories to expand abilities to identify nuclear materials in other nations that might be passed surreptitiously to terrorists. All of these efforts could require additional money.

While similar goals have been expressed before, no previous formal review elevated the threat of nuclear terrorism as a central element of the government's strategic blueprint.

In comparison, the previous nuclear review, completed under President George W. Bush, called for new nuclear weapons to destroy underground bunkers, including those that might hold unconventional weapons, in Iraq, Iran, North Korea, Syria and Libya. NYT

FBI accused of abusing power in Bill-Monica probe

WASHINGTON—A FORMER director of the Secret Service said on Friday the FBI engaged in an "abuse of power" by trying to pressure him to "give us the president" during the investigation of President Bill Clinton's interactions with Monica Lewinsky a decade ago.

The official, Lewis C. Merletti, who headed the former president's protective detail and later became the agency's director, said in an interview that the FBI grilled him just days before Clinton left office in a last-ditch effort to prove that his agents had covered up and even facilitated extramarital flings.

Merletti said the FBI alleged that he and Clinton had concocted a deal—in exchange for Merletti stonewalling questions about Lewinsky, Clinton would not only appoint him director of the Secret Service but also would provide him women for sexual encounters.

"They said to me, 'You're the last person who can give us the president, and you're going to give him to us,'" Merletti recalled. He called it "disgraceful" and said of the FBI, "They became involved in a political game, and in the end they tarnished themselves beyond belief."

The sensational accusation surfaced first in a new book on the long battle between Clinton and Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel who investigated the Whitewater land deal and the president's involvement with Lewinsky, a young White House aide. Starr's investigation into the Lewinsky matter led the House to impeach Clinton in 1998 for perjury and obstruction of justice but the Senate acquitted him in 1999. NYT



HOLIDAY SALE on the Internet: "The Hillary Nutcracker & Corkscrew Set" for $29.95. AFP

A New Hero Arises
BRINGING LITERACY AND HOPE TO THE LEAST



He pushes his "kariton" to places few teachers have to go. And wherever his makeshift classroom brings him, it leaves a legacy that many of his pupils – now totaling around 12,000 – will cherish for a long time. Because it is hope, more than anything else, that he peddles and teaches.





"We hope that Efren's example, which has received a lot of media attention here and all over the world, will inspire many more Filipinos to do their part to be of service to the country."





Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Sunday Biz



Celebrating the real meaning of Christmas

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THERE MAY BE NO STOPPING Christmas, but that most wonderful time of the year can at least be celebrated with more substance than fluff.

Considering the thousands of Filipinos who are still recovering from the debilitating effects of Tropical Storm "Ondoy" and Tropical Depression "Pepeng," a number of companies have decided to mark the season in different and more meaningful ways.

CELEBRATING/B7

Ayala Land s long-term focus ensures stability in 2009

With the global economic crisis marking the Philippines' start of 2009 with a bleak outlook for many industries including real estate, Ayala Land put financial measures in place to ensure the company's stability.

Backed by a history of successfully weathering economic turmoil such as the 1997 Asian financial crisis, Ayala Land set forth at the start of the year with strategic moves intending to keep cash flow healthy and the balance sheets stable, by strengthening cost effectiveness, exploring new markets and maintaining transparency and heightened awareness among customers and stakeholders with project developments.

'We geared up to survive and be prepared for the worst possible scenario.'

Antonio T. Aquino, Ayala Land President, gives an overview of the year. "Certain adjustments happened in the marketplace due to the global economic crisis that started in the third quarter of last year. But fortunately, we were able to see that the country was not as badly affected and that demand had proven to be very resilient."

Early Conservative Posture

"Given the projections on the crisis, Ayala Land took on a conservative posture. We made sure that the company had sufficient liquidity so that if the crisis deepens, we would still be left standing. We geared up to survive and be prepared for the worst possible scenario," recounts Aquino.

To achieve this, Ayala Land launched a limited supply of the originally planned number of units compared to the last two years. "We were conscious and cautious of the rate of market absorption," he states.

"But things ended up being not as bad as we expected. By the second quarter, we started noticing that there was a mild recovery. We also realized that the dip in sales of the early part of the year was mainly due to issues related to market confidence rather than to the fundamentals of the economy," he adds.

Aquino notes that to date, interest rates are benign and banks are still looking to improve their mortgage portfolio. Consumer lending remains to be the only significant outlet for bank lending. Banks are looking at other investment opportunities, primarily property. "We realized too, that household wealth in the Philippines has not been significantly affected by the crisis. That's the biggest difference with other major economies."

The Ayala Land head pointed to remittances from the 8 to 10 million overseas Filipinos as the single biggest reason for the resilient economy. Studies indicate that one of four Filipino households receive remittances, a significant portion of which is spent on food, and other daily necessities. Some 20 to 25 percent is estimated to be spent on housing needs.



People, Events & Products

Globe program readies students for global arena



Jazz up your Holiday dessert indulgence with CaliforniaBerry



DISTINGUISHED SON OF GUMACA AWARDED



NEW AUTOMOTIVE TRAINING TOOLS FROM TOYOTA



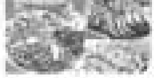
The giving cup





THE BEST AND THE BRIGHTEST AT THE 11TH APHCA

Enjoy Panciteria Lido's Feast of the Season party packages



Celebrate Christmas with Happy-Haus Donuts



Partners for a life-changing advocacy

When advocates of entrepreneurship and the best in wireless communications come together, there emerges a silver lining for Filipinos who share the vision of battling poverty from the trenches of micro and small businesses.





> **"By issuing the special edition Go Negosyo plug-it modems and through our other services like InfoBoard, SMART shares in Go Negosyo's efforts to inspire more Filipinos into becoming entrepreneurs"**













Pldt Manila Pasasalamat Night







The influence question: Will you grow or plateau?

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell



Goal-conscious vs growth-conscious

Leaders develop daily, not in a day

Summary



MOTORSTAR HISTORY

EASTWORLD Motor Industries Corporation (EMIC), the exclusive distributor of MOTORSTAR motorcycles and scooters, was established in February 2002. It started producing 18 units only per day but is now making 300 units a day. In the year that it was established, EMIC has registered as a participant in the Motor Vehicle Development Program (MVDP) of the Board of Investments.

Eastworld Motors is also a bonafide and an active member of the Motorcycle Development Program Participants Association (MDPPA), Inc., the elite motorcycle assemblers in the country. In 2006, Eastworld Motors became headed as president the MDPPA and reigned for two years under the leadership of its marketing manager, Mr. Joseph Sison.

Today, Eastworld has two exclusive dealers (Probikes Motorcycle Center, which caters to the entire Luzon area, and MSS Cycle Trading, for Visayas and Mindanao) and has over 200 branches nationwide.

EMIC is the leading distributor of China-made motorcycles in the Philippines. It recently inaugurated its 1st 3-S shop in Manila located at #304 10th Ave. corner 3rd St. Grace Park, Caloocan City, which boasts of a very impressive showroom, fully-stocked parts, and a well-equipped service center.

EMIC is a motorcycle company which envisions providing service excellence, improving the quality of life of the Filipinos and becoming the best in the motorcycle industry with the mission to protect the environment by continuing to support the production of four (4) stroke engines.

Visit us at www.motorstar.com.ph

Ayala Land s long-term focus ensures stability in 2009

All our business units did their share to buoy us up this year. We were in this together. Everyone was on board the process, and it was important to get everyone to do his share in this crucial time.

Shifting Gears

Moving Forward Together

Key Learnings

Challenging periods bring about many positive changes for those who manage for the long haul

Basking in the afterglow of kindness









Scarred

Top 12 birth defects

Goings-on

AIM among top 100

Franchising sorties

Green Retail Agenda

Big stars, bright lights

Zest Air route

Contract signing

Celebrating the real meaning of Christmas





Meaningful and relevant

Heroic efforts

Changing people's lives

Sunday Biz

Filipino shows Singapore how service is done



LIM and a colleague go through their schedule for the day

By Corrie Salientes-Mariano



LIM

Cut for the job

Happy resident

Landing in Ascott

Sunday LifeStyle Travel
Editor: Thelma Sioson San Juan



Articles, tips, guides in pinoylah.com are written by Filipinos, making them easier to relate to

THE POP-ART site virtually shows you around Singapore.

New site makes Singapore more fun, Pinoy-friendly

By Irwin C. Perez

SINGAPORE GETS MORE accessible with www.pinoylah.com, a new travel guide to the city-state designed specifically for Filipinos.

[illegible]

NEW SITE 11

Enjoy Christmas with the family—at a hotel

Sofitel's Yuletide packages spare you the stress of trundling out the silverware and entertaining at your own home



SOFITEL'S rooms feature plush furnishings and wide-screen TV.



LIFE-SIZE gingerbread house near the entrance with Christmas cookies and gingerbread treats at very reasonable prices.



FEAST on the grand buffet at Spiral.

Plush furnishings

A very special Christmas

Christmas, the birthday of our Lord, is the season of giving and an opportunity for Filipinos to reunite with family and friends for a warm celebration of love and expression of tender kindness to one another.

On Christmas Eve, Filipino families gather together around the dining table for Noche Buena, which usually consists of the most delectable food items specially prepared for the season. Always present during the occasion is the succulent ham, which has been a tradition in the Philippines for many decades now.

Ham, known for being tender, delectable, and juicy is not just a festive food, but also a dining experience fit during special celebration for many Filipinos. Christmas brings together loved ones and friends for a wonderful partaking and sharing of food, especially ham.

This Christmas, let us celebrate the season with love and tenderness that only CDO Christmas Hams can bring.

One Philippine company, CDO-Foodsphere Inc., has perfected the art of ham-making and provides the Filipino consumers with high-quality hams for their enjoyment every Christmas.

The company's specialty hams are products of more than 30 years of development, beginning in the early 1970s when company founder Corazon Dayro-Ong, the Woman Entrepreneur of 2009 by Ernst & Young, concocted special hams for her neighbors, using her culinary skills and know-how as a nutritionist-dietitian.

Easily winning the approval of her neighbors and later the Filipino consumers, Mrs. Cora Ong established CDO in 1975 to manufacture meat products that are now synonymous to high quality and affordable price.

With CDO Holiday Whole-Meat Ham, the company uses only choice leg of young pork blended with fine spices and ingredients and cured to perfection.

The company follows a careful and stringent ham-making process that has made the product truly special.

"There are absolutely no shortcuts in our ham-making process, and we have been doing this for the past three decades," said Mrs. Cora Ong.

CDO Christmas Hams are manufactured in a state-of-the-art food processing complex in Malvar, Batangas, which was inaugurated June 26 this year.

Both the CDO Holiday Whole-Meat Ham (P430 a kilo) and CDO Pista Cooked Ham (P380 a kilo) are perfect for gift-giving and Noche Buena. Filipinos love these specialty hams for being tender, tasty and juicy.

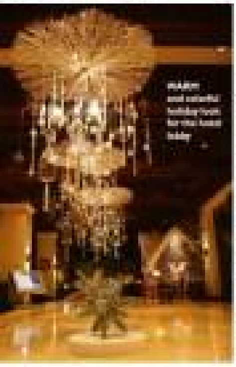
CDO also provides affordable, but high-quality ham products for Christmas such as the Hamon de bola (P299 a kilo), Pear-shaped ham (P220 per piece) and American ham (P148 per piece).

Make your Christmas even more special… Celebrate with specialty hams that are noted for being tender, tasty and juicy.



New site makes Singapore more fun . . .

From page C1



evenings up to Dec. 23, children's choirs from various schools in Metro Manila sing Christmas carols at Spiral, the better for visitors to feel the mood of the holiday season while feasting on the grand buffet.

Traditional touch

Balikbayans will be especially pleased with the traditional Filipino Christmas dinner feature Sofitel is serving. While relishing the cool evening breeze by Manila Bay, they can feast on bibingka and puto bumbong served hot off the oven and have their fill of freshly roasted crispy lechon. For more intimate gatherings, executive chef Marko Rankel has prepared a four-course set menu at Le Bar.

In addition, the hotel has other activities and services to keep everyone entertained. A dazzling fireworks display will be lit on New Year's Eve, and, at the stroke of midnight, there will be a balloon drop at the poolside and at 7Seasons.

"We're also having a countdown to the first grand kiss," says Liberges. Guests therefore better make sure they're beside someone truly special just before the countdown.

And just to make the celebration complete, at 11 a.m. on Christmas Day and New Year's Day, the hotel has made arrangements for Holy Mass to be held so guests won't have to venture far to fulfill their religious obligations.

"This is truly a celebration of the many blessings we have received this year and hope to receive in the coming year," says Liberges.

And for families, it's a way of being together in an environment that's conducive to feelings of warmth and camaraderie. Luxurious surroundings and sumptuous meals, after all, have a way of fostering harmony and lifting the spirit. What better time to enjoy all those than during the holiday season?

Sofitel Philippine Plaza is at CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City; tel. 5515555, 8326988; www.sofitel.com/asia.

and easier to relate to.

Checklist

The "Geek Guide" section enumerates the must-go-to events every month. The "Travel Tips" page offers a checklist of travel essentials and information about currency exchange. "Hot Deals," meanwhile, lets readers in on the latest promos and online contests.

Then there's Pinoy Top 10, a best-of-the-best list. PinoyJab.com now charts the best Singaporean dishes Filipinos enjoy. The famous chili crab tops the list. Other favorites are Hainanese chicken rice, satay (meaty rounds like our local barbecue), roti prata and teh tarik (Indian pancake with curry paired with milk tea), and fried carrot cake.

There are also polls that ask visitors what their favorite Singapore activities are. The site also encourages you to drop by for must-see events such as the Singapore Food Festival, Great Singapore Sale, the soon-to-open Universal Studios, Singapore Grand Prix, the new Orchard Road malls and the popular Resorts World Sentosa.

Filipinos go to Singapore for a variety of reasons, says Teow. And with competitive and more affordable airfare packages, many more are choosing Singapore as their first out-of-the-country destination.

"Some go there to shop in luxury boutiques, while some buy electronic items. Some are into medical tourism, especially now that traditional Chinese medicine is gaining popularity. Others visit museums and art exhibits. A good number also seek employment and better jobs," says Teow.

Visit www.pinoyjab.com and www.stb.com.sg



PINOY Top 10 provides a countdown of the best stuff Singapore has to offer Filipino visitors.


MAV
MAVEN
EDADES
TOWER AND GARDEN VILLAS



LIFESTYLE IN 2009

Frontiers of Philippine design expand

Rag trade goes green while caskets get designer label

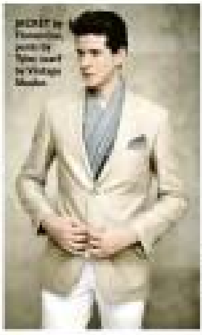


All of the world's shopping cities under one roof

In Adora, New York, Florence, New Delhi, Barcelona and, of course, Manila come together harmoniously

[illegible]











Frontiers of Philippine . . .

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SM MALL OF ASIA
Christmas Events You Can't Miss





This Christmas season, all roads lead to the country's top lifestyle mall by the scenic Manila Bay as the most exciting holiday events are happening at SM MOA!

SM Mall of Asia is undeniably the country's ultimate Christmas destination as it brings back Christmas Wonderworld—the mall's annual celebration of lights, cheers, colors, and smiles. Exciting events and amazing attractions have been prepared for those who will choose to spend the wonderful holidays at SM MOA: unique features and delightful treats that you won't find anywhere else.

Bring the whole family over to enjoy the beautiful sights and marvelous sounds of Christmas in the exciting offerings the mall has prepared to radiate the festive spirit of the Filipino holidays. Christmas Wonderworld is a magical event of grandiose proportions designed specifically to amuse, amaze, and put happy smiles on shoppers' faces, and for the special holiday memories that Filipino families will create at MOA. Christmas will be such a blast at the top destination mall by the bay!

You and your family can't miss the awesome happenings at SM MOA! Be sure to catch the last edition of the Grand Festival of Lights Parade and the last performance of the Grand Symphony of Voices featuring the Coro Tomasino, both on December 26. The larger-than-life diorama of the Sights and Sounds Christmas Around the World is playing daily at the Main Mall Atrium from 11 AM to 9 PM until January 3, 2010.



Christmas Wonderworld Highlights

The Sights and Sounds of Christmas Around the World
Daily until January 3, 2010 | Main Mall Atrium | 11 AM to 9 PM

Meet & Greet Santa Claus at the Magical Christmas Tree
December 20 | Main Mall Atrium | 3 to 5 PM

The Grand Festival of Lights Parade
December 26 | North and South Arcades | 5:30 PM

The Grand Symphony of Voices featuring the Coro Tomasino
December 23 | Main Mall Atrium | 3:00 PM (Matinee Performance)
December 26 | Firefly Singing Christmas Tree by the Bay | 6:30 PM

Spectacular Holiday Pyromusical Shows
Fridays and Saturdays | San Miguel by the Bay | 7 PM



MALL OF ASIA

J.W. Diokno Boulevard, Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City 1300 Philippines

Sunday LifeStyle









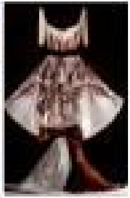
Timepieces inspired by Willie Revillame

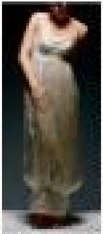




Long before Pacquiao, there was this global Filipina

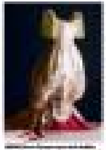


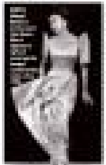






2009 would be remembered as the year the Philippines honored a woman who was way ahead of her time





How to continue a legacy



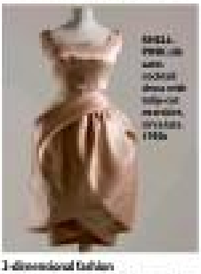


Long before Pacquiao, there was . . .

Botong's student at UST







3-dimensional fashion

Sunday LifeStyle



December birthday celebrators get to party

The worst part is that December babies usually get that dreaded "joint" gift for both their birthday and Christmas



TESSA!
Tessa Prieto-Valdes















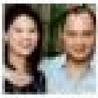
December birthday celebrators. . .











Birthday boy

Cancer run

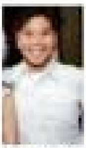
Gift ideas

Spa

Shirts

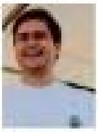
Coca-Cola plates



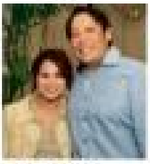




ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD







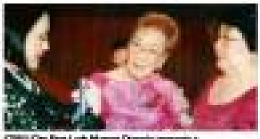




Cebu's Zonta Club marks ruby anniversary with 'Glamour & Glitz' fundraiser

CEBU CEBU





Comic relief

HOLIDAY KIDSTUFF AT THE SM MEGAMALL

Christmas, as they say, is for kids, and dressing up in holiday style is a cherished childhood memory. This Christmas, make your little girls feel like little princesses with dream dresses, and let your little boys dress dapper and cool from our kiddie fashion stores at the SM Megamall.

















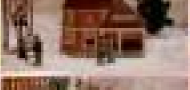
MARY ANN TOPACIO'S CHRISTMAS VILLAGE AT THE MEGA ATRIUM

One of the holiday attractions at the Mega Atrium is the Christmas village collection by Mary Ann Topacio, which will be on display until December 25.

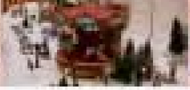
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Visit the Christmas Village at the Mega Atrium until December 25.













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HERMÈS
PARIS

Sunday LifeStyle

Brillante Mendoza loves his native Pampanga–and its SM mall

FILM DIRECTOR BRILLANTE "Dante" Mendoza has brought great honor to the Philippines by winning numerous awards for his independent films shot in digital video. He is the first Filipino to win the Best Director award at the Cannes Film Festival for "Kinatay" ("The Execution of P"), in the same year that Quentin Tarantino ("Inglorious Basterds") and Ang Lee ("Taking Woodstock") competed in that category.

Born in San Fernando, Pampanga, Brillante is proud of his Kapampangan heritage and makes frequent visits to his hometown, and remains a true cabalen at heart. Here, he talks about his movies, his San Fernando and his SM.

You have made the Philippines proud with your movies. How much influence does your hometown have on your films?

"I think my life in Pampanga influenced my films. I base most of the characters and incidents on my films on real-life experiences.

"Also, I recognize my roots. For me, it's easier to capture truth if you're honest with yourself. Since I want to show truthfulness not only with my characters, but also with the stories in my films, I can't think of any other way except to start and talk about where and how I grew up."

If you were to make a movie about your life in San Fernando, what would be your flashbacks?

"I grew up in a simple close-knit family. I would go with my mom to the old San Fernando market during weekends. My parents liked watching movies, and whenever we would go, I recall they would have a long discussion on what genre to watch.

Did you shoot any of your films in your hometown?

"When I shot my first feature film, I didn't have any second thoughts about doing it in San Fernando. It is an instinct to film in a place where I am most welcome and accepted. The exciting feeling of doing what I really want in a special place that I call home is something that I treasure and will remain in my heart for the rest of my life."

'When I was a production designer in advertising a few years back, I would shop at SM all day and come out with my shooting requirements'



What would make a distinctly Kapampangan movie?

"A distinctly Kapampangan movie would be about food and cooking and about people who love to eat and take pride in their cooking. It should be about people who want to be and get the most out of life despite their difficult situation. It should be about ambition without necessarily being ambitious.

If you were to take a guest around your hometown, where would you take them?

"I like to visit the Metropolitan Cathedral every time I go home. It brings back memories of my high school life when I was an altar boy. I will let them taste Kapampangan cuisine like our version of kare-kare, adobo, tocino and tibok-tibok for dessert. I always miss Kapampangan food when I'm abroad.

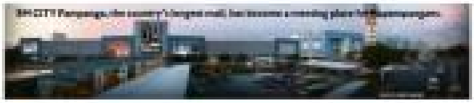
"If they want to shop, I would take them to SM because it offers a wide variety of shopping choices. When I was a production designer in advertising a few years back, I would shop at SM all day and come out with my shooting requirements. I would say that SM is the total Filipino store, Filipino mall.



Your new story pays tribute to the talent, hard work, and resilience Kapampangans are known for. How would you describe this spirit?

"When Mount Pinatubo erupted many years ago, many people said Pampanga would just be a part of history. I almost believed it myself, doubting what the Kapampangan can do given the worst situation in life. But being true to the Kapampangan spirit, we all picked up the pieces and started life anew. Now we only see traces of the wrath of Mount Pinatubo, but every time we see them, we are reminded of how the true Kapampangan spirit can stand and surpass a tragedy.

"Having SM in the midst of what used to be a barren land gives hope and joy to a lot of Kapampangans. It is not only a mall where people go to shop, but it has become like a meeting place for all Kapampangans in different parts of the province."



SM CITY Pampanga, the country's largest mall, has become a meeting place for Kapampangans

What to give when just any gift won't do



The carré from the past to the future...

Luxury house Hermès' first RP boutique opens today at Greenbelt 4





















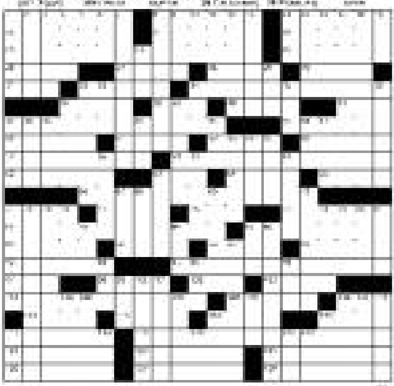




Sunday Crossword

PREMIER CROSSWORD / By Frank A. Longo

INNER-CITY ACTIVITY



Win prizes in Singapore challenge



MALIBAGO-CABAÑBAN
Marilou E. Malibago, daughter of Lea and Manfred Malibago, recently tied the knot with Roderick Cabanban, son of Rodolfo and Jovana Cabanban, at Sta. Maria della Strada Church in Quezon City. Reception was at Blue Gardens, QC. The Filipiniana-style bridal gown was by Mesye Dimaano.

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the Inquirer, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.



REYNALES DEBUT
Celeste Ignacio B. Reynales turns 18. A nursing sophomore at Ateneo University, she is holding her debut party today at Villa Monica Clubhouse.



LERNER-TAN
Mark Andrew Lerner, son of lawyer Marshall and Linda Lerner from Ohio, USA, will wed Amalia F. Tan, daughter of Arnaldo (deceased) and Soledad Tan, on Dec. 22 at San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila. Reception follows at Diamond Hotel.

December is also the Season of Weddings

When most women in other countries dream to be married in June, Filipinas usually prefer to be December brides. I guess it goes with the season of true giving. And what better gift to receive than the promise of forever love, right?

To remind you and your partner of that promise is also something that you will forever keep — the wedding rings. From the big day to the anniversaries thereafter, it is these wedding rings that will be with you and will hold you forever as a couple. As a celebrated wife-to-be, it is the wedding ring that you will have as your ultimate jewelry piece.

There are a lot to consider when choosing your rings. But if there's one thing for sure, you can't underestimate its value because they are supposed to be the most precious and priceless pieces you'll ever have.

Good thing there are fine jewelry boutiques, like F&C Jewelry, that offer installment plans







so it doesn't hurt your pocket. And because it's the season of giving and weddings, F&C Jewelry gives you installment plans without interest. Now, it's easy to start your life with the promise of forever love!

F&C Jewelry is located in Glorietta 1, Glorietta 3, almost all SM Department Stores nationwide. The fine jewelry brand also has boutiques in Cebu, Iloilo, Bacolod and Davao.



She wants to leave her family to marry her boyfriend

Don't let your passion for each other rule your minds

EMILY'S POST



Emily A. Marcelo

Sunday LifeStyle





HILO Hanoi's furniture installation at Movement Evasion show produced by Inquirer Lifestyle

Big bags, non-invasive procedures and patriotic fashion were 'in'

LIFESTYLE IN 2009

Year of creative copings and design flourishes

By Alex Y. Vergara

THE YEAR 2009 WAS ONE marked by stark contrasts and creative copings.

Nowhere is this more evident than in fashion and interior design.

• Carrying big designer bags is old news among the rich and famous, but 2009 saw an explosion of humongous bags carrying in every market segment. Why, despite medical findings directly linking oversized bags to neck, shoulder and back problems, can't women across age groups eschew big bags?

"More brands started offering women more and bigger choices as the world saw a shift in women's lifestyle—more work, more gadgets, more roles," says Melanie Guevara, editor in chief of Look, the beauty magazine.

• Interior designers, like Maggie Co, devised a more contemporary and Asian-lined look to perhaps ward away feelings of gloom and doom brought by the global economic. Sleek, ornate finishes were so [illegible], as opposed to maximizing the use of artificial and natural light and opening up previously unutilized space.

This Co did as she went about redesigning Brasserie 21, the Security Bank building's showcase restaurant on the 21st floor in Makati.

• With proper planning, you can turn part of your sprawling garden into an ideal covered venue for hosting parties and family get-togethers without spending a huge sum.

"In the absence of a professional, you can still do it on your own by making it simple," said accessories turned-design consultant Tess Vargas.

Rather than go eclectic—a tricky route for the ambitious amateur—stick to a design theme and work around it. In Vargas' case, she worked around a Southeast Asian theme that complemented her lush orchids, traveler's palms, bromeliads, bird of paradise and bird's nest.

• Companies found new, more creative ways to champion causes as well as push sales. Leading the pack was Bench, which kicked off the year by launching Fetch and Inspire, two women's fragrances dubbed as "Scents for Life." A percentage of sales from both perfumes went to Pink for Life, a foundation responsible for subsidizing chemotherapy among indigent women with breast cancer.

• Patriotism also sells, as more Filipinos, including presidential front-runner Sen. Noynoy Aquino, wore their sentiments on

YEAR H2







Holiday finds for the young





Chowking breaks new ground in food delivery

Freshly cooked Chinese food delivered right at your doorstep

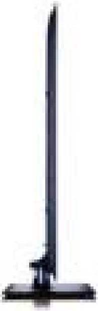


Year of creative copings and design flourishes



Living in a Digital Generation with Samsung

by Ruby de Vera



For over 40 years, Samsung has been a part of our daily lives. Aiming to provide a better life for consumers, they have continually strived to bring the latest technology coupled with style and sophistication in mobile devices, home electronics, computing products and peripherals, and home appliances.

A global market leader in over 60 products, innovation has been a big factor for this achievement. For Samsung there is always room for improvement, even in the most seemingly perfect things. Technology is always evolving in this day and age, at a very rapidly increasing rate. Last year's technological breakthroughs are obsolete by today's standards. Keeping up with it is the challenge.

The Digital Experience

The digital age has forced everyone to own some sort of electronic gadget, serving a specific need that did not exist two years ago. Now almost everyone has mobile phones, digital music players, and digital cameras. The desire to be connected, entertained, and to document our everyday lives at all times is ever present.

Samsung's mobile phones have become a tool for these needs, but not without compromising designs for every imaginable type of user. The Omnia II's Touch Technology gained rave reviews from consumers, especially the 3D design and its multimedia functionalities including a faster Internet browser and WiFi connectivity, 5MP digital camera and DVD-quality recording capabilities, and 3D gaming applications. With these features, you can produce your own reality show in the Internet.



Omnia II (i8000):
- Ultra Brilliant AMOLED Touch Screen
- HSDPA 7.2Mbps and Wi-Fi Connectivity
- DVD-like Video Recording & Playback
- 5 megapixel camera
- GPS application

But there are people who want their gadget to specialize only in one function. Mobile phones are used for calling and sending text messages, and cameras should just take pictures. The Samsung ST550 digital camera is the first ever digital camera in the market to feature the on-demand Dual LCD, having it at the front and back of the camera for perfect self-portraits. Located beside the lens, the screen is accessed by tapping it. Also capable of recording video, your reality show just got better.

The appeal of the technology wave is not the sole territory of mobile devices, but when it comes to home appliances, the rules still apply: sleek and stream-lined; better yet, connected to the world. The introduction of their new LED TV technology has changed the world of flat screens - it combines award-winning designs with the most advanced technology available today. The world's thinnest TV at 29.9mm, it gives the truest colors possible. Pop in a high definition DVD movie in Blu-Ray and might as well be in the movie yourself. Pictures are so sharp Brad Pitt doesn't seem so perfect anymore.

Internet on your TV? Weather forecasts, real-time news and even playing J.Lo's American Music Awards dance number gaffe from YouTube is possible. If you want to see your own media (like your reality show) on wide screen, these TVs can play stuff from your flash drive. Being a couch potato now seems so cool.

On the Homefront

Who liked cleaning refrigerators? It's messy and it takes up a lot of time, but if you don't want to eventually contract some disease from your refrigerator, cleaning is a must. Fortunately, the latest technology allows us not to do it very often.

The Silver Nano technology on the Samsung refrigerators have become the standard in one of the most essential home appliances. The Silver Nano Health System is a basic feature on all of Samsung's refrigerator models, where they are integrated in the material used for building the inner walls of the refrigerator itself, so that when the bacteria from food hit the walls, it's instantly destroyed.

Bacteria wouldn't be there anyway without the spoiled food. Prolonging the shelf life of food by refrigerating it is a given, but everything has an expiration date. Avoid generating an ecosystem inside your refrigerator with Twin Cooling Plus(TM), one of the newest and most innovative technologies in preserving the shelf life of fruits and vegetables. The feature allows different humidity levels for the freezer and the refrigerator compartment, so fruits and vegetables retain their moisture. The CoolSelect Zone(TM) on the other hand, is a special drawer that has five settings depending on your need, whether it's fast-cooling drinks for a party, thawing steaks, or just prolonging the refrigerator life of some food items.

Washing machines, while making our laundry times easier, are known for the damage they inflict on clothes. Not with the Diamond Drum technology on Samsung's washing machines that features a unique diamond embossed pattern, it prevents fabrics from sticking to the holes that cause eventual wear out.

At the end of the day, we all just want to rest. People live very full days that rest and relaxation have taken a backseat. Recharging is important, but sleep is a luxury for some people. The Good Sleep feature of Samsung's airconditioners are recommended for those suffering from insomnia. No energy supplement after all can beat a good night's sleep, ready to face another full day.

For more information about Samsung and it's products, log on to http://www.samsung.com/ph.



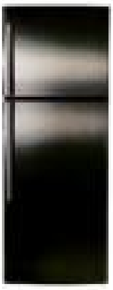
The innovative Samsung 2View has an LCD in the front and at the back to take perfect pictures all the time



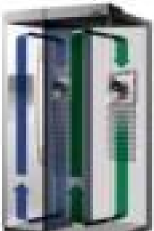
With the internet TV you can view you tube, check the weather and the news on your LED TV







RS20NRPS



TWIN COOLING SYSTEM

Thanks to the improved temperature and humidity control of the Twin Cooling Plus(TM), the refrigeration compartment maintains higher humidity for delicate foods like leafy vegetables, and the freezer compartment stays dry while no mixing of odors.



COOL SELECT ZONE

The CoolSelect Zone(TM) is designed to accommodate the demands of your various tastes and needs with versatility at the touch of a button. Only Samsung's CoolSelect Zone(TM) lets you decide the function of this specialized drawer. Thaw or quick chill items for a last minute dinner or spur-of-the-moment party. Even set the temperature for medium-term storage, which keeps food from freezing so it's easily sliceable but keeps longer than regular refrigeration.





Lesser damage on clothes with Samsung's diamond drum

GOTTA HAVE TOY KINGDOM'S AMAZING CARD



Get these coupons with your Amazing Card Starter Kit at Toy Kingdom stores for only P150.

It's never too early for kids to shop smart, and Toy Kingdom's Amazing Card will make kids part of a community of toy lovers and get exclusive previews of new toys and updates on events. It's like Mom and Dad's SM Advantage Card or Prestige Card, and it opens a whole new world of exciting rewards, discounts, and freebies. What's more, the more they shop, the more points they earn, and the more free toys they will get to enjoy.

To be a member, you can get your Amazing Card Starter Kit at Toy Kingdom stores for only P150. You'll also get coupons, which will entitle you to discounts and bonus points of premium brands like Little Tikes, Chicco, Baby Alive, My Little Pony, Lisa Frank, Barbie, Disney Princess, Power Rangers, Transformers, GI Joe, Nikko, Playstation 3, PSP and Wii.

Shop at Toy Kingdom and enjoy a world of exciting rewards and shopping fun. Toy Kingdom stores are located at SM Makati, The Podium, SM Megamall, SM Southmall, SM City Fairview, The Block at SM City North EDSA, and the SM Mall of Asia. In the provincial areas, these are located at SM Supermalls in Pampanga, Lucena, Baguio, Bacolod, and Batangas in Luzon and Cebu, Iloilo, Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro, and Davao in the Visayas areas. Also visit our website at www.toykingdom.ph.



Boys will love fun combining these Power Rangers Jungle Fury Zords.





Chicco 3-in-1 Shapes and Sounds Tambourine for the little ones.



Share and wear hair accessories with this Disney Princess Snow White doll and Royal Horse.



Create a magical Ponyville world with this My Little Pony Teapot Palace.



Girls will love this Lisa Frank Value Pack. Includes 1 binder, 2 portfolios, and lots of sticker accessories.



Hand for speed: Nikko Off Road Trucks with full-function radio control.



Spend hours of high resolution fun with the new and more compact Playstation 3 Slim.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Customize cell phone with Yuletide contents

DECK THE HALLS—AND your Nokia phone by customizing it with Yuletide content.

The Ovi Store has Christmas carols, holiday recipes, popular games with special Christmas themes, wallpapers and apps that'll make organizing one's shopping list easier.

"The Ovi Store has stocked the shelves with content for a broad range of Nokia devices," said [illegible], general manager, Nokia Philippines. "Ovi Store makes shopping for content and applications easy and fun."

Customers can update devices with the Ovi Store mobile application by selecting the Ovi Store icon in the Download folder on the device. Ovi Store is an evolving media service that consolidates Nokia's existing content services into a one-stop shop for free content. Thousands of the content industry's biggest names, along with independent application developers are distributing their media, applications and games through Ovi Store.

Give your device something special this year. Here's a sample of some free Christmas content for S60 3rd and 5th edition Nokia devices that'll keep one entertained.

- Shoppy Widget—Christmas brings out your inner shopaholic. Even if you despise having to scour the aisles and stores for the perfect present, the holiday spirit somehow makes all the long lines and retail frustrations all worth it. With the Shoppy Widget app, it helps you manage your shopping lists and socialize them with friends—because shopping need not be a chore during Christmas.
- Snapfish App—The holiday season calls for annual get-togethers, which in turn call for countless photos you'd share later on with those you were with or those who missed out on the latest group.
- Christmas Snow Globe—Sure, it doesn't snow in Manila, but it can in your phone. This nifty app from Ovi Store turns your mobile world into a winter wonderland. Shake your touch device and watch it snow, watch it snow, watch it snow!
- Christmas Games—From Sims 3, Monopoly, Cluedo, Bejeweled Twist, Tetris Slam and Crazy Penguin—keep the holiday spirit alive even when you play games on your mobile phone.
- Interactive Christmas Card—When you care enough to send the very best, get Ovi Store's Interactive Christmas Card and share this interactive card with friends and family.
- Christmas Carol e-Book—Take caroling into a whole new level of tech. Rather than read your Song Hits, download the Christmas Carol e-Book into the phone.

Visit www.store.ovi.com.

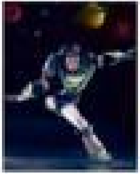


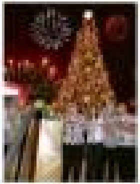
NOKIA 6700 with Ovi applications



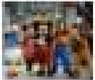
A CHRISTMAS LIKE NO OTHER!



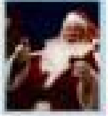




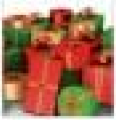


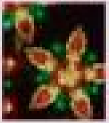


















Diocese of Legazpi welcomes new bishop

THE CANONICAL INSTALLATION of Most Rev. Joel Zamudio Baylon as the sixth bishop of the Diocese of Legazpi last Dec. 10 at the St. Gregory Cathedral in Legazpi [illegible]

[illegible]

Act of Consecration

[illegible]

Purely Personal



Josephine Darang

[illegible]

Guadalupe shrine in Cavite

[illegible]



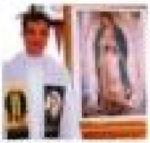
MOST Rev. Joel Baylon, bishop of the Diocese of Legazpi



BISHOP Emeritus Manuel Sobreviñas incenses Our Lady of Guadalupe while Fr. Noel Custodio looks on.



DEVOTEES touch the icon of Our Lady of Guadalupe



FR. NOEL Custodio with Our Lady of Guadalupe

[illegible]

Affection for Mama Guada

[illegible]

> Almost 1,500 people attended the installation, including President Macapagal-Arroyo

"Am I not your Mother?"

[illegible]

Belenismo sa Tarlac 2008

[illegible]

St. Padre Pio Healing Mass

[illegible]

Latin Mass

[illegible]

Sunday LifeStyle Travel





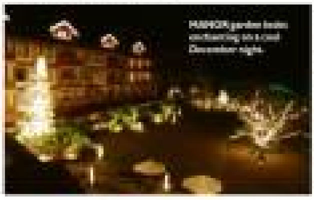
JAZZ BAND Makes ... guests with cool ... at the lobby bar



SANTA bearing gifts at the Manor garden



MANOR façade all lit up for Christmas



MANOR garden looks enchanting on a cool December night.

THE MANOR AT CAMP John Hay in Baguio was looking forward to another booming Christmas holiday season this year amid super-typhoons Ondoy and Pepeng struck. In the wake of the destruction, bookings, particularly the much-anticipated annual ... were ... But this was not enough to dampen the hotel staff's holiday spirit.

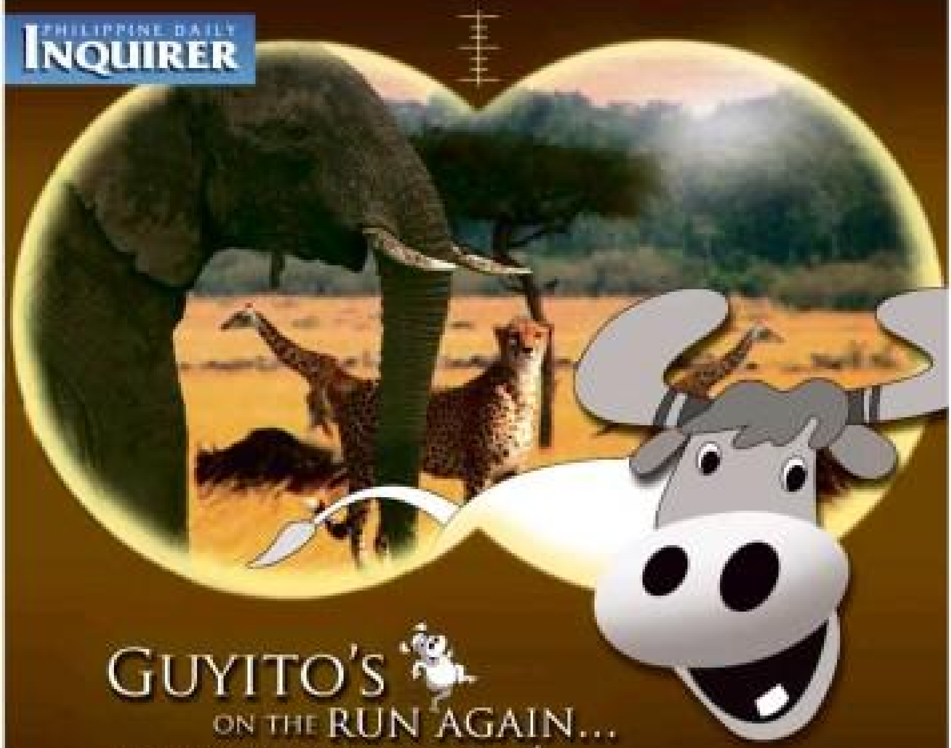
Carrying on tradition, they transformed their garden into a dazzling display of lights. Two pine trees a hundred feet tall were bedecked with Christmas decorations, as was the man-made waterfall. A corner was ... to the Santa Claus to hand and distribute gifts throughout the season. And a fireworks display, as in past years, and band music will greet the New Year.

Manor executives say reservations are fast filling up. There's no stopping Christmas in this mountain city.



LE CHEF at the Manor

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



GUYITO'S ON THE RUN AGAIN... AND THE HUNT IS ON!

It's no wild goose chase whenever Guyito's on the loose!
Get a chance to win cool prizes

NOKIA | Edsa Shangri-La | Rasa Ria Resort | Mactan Resort & Spa

in the **Guyito Wild Hunt 2009!**

PROMO MECHANICS:

Thank you for making us No. 1!
Join now!
Subscription Hotline:

Food for the holidays

Christmas dinner in the Philippines

Premium quality and taste make Purefoods Fiesta Ham a bestseller



TVC brings back the joys of 'caroling'



Warehouse, war camp, nightclub–rediscovering Cebu's Jesuit House (in a hardware bodega)



OLD DOOR of Jesuit House bears the sign of the construction date—[illegible]

How Jimmy Sy unearthed a historical jewel in his family's backyard



ORIGINAL wide wood flooring of the Jesuit House [illegible]





CORNER in Jesuit House



Modern activity

Similar structure

Stunning

Travel Briefs

New World's new GM



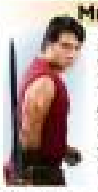
Sanctuary for expats

ENTERTAINMENT

WISH LIST

JC Tiuseco

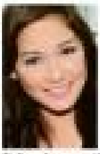
METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL



BONG Revilla Jr.

Ang Panday

Maja: Mark has the cutest eyes!





Chef-Quality Pasta Perfection from Pizza Hut



DOLPHY and young [illegible] in a number.

Thanksgiving and a preview

By [illegible] R. Cruz
Photos by [illegible] ABS-CBN

THE KAPAMILYA CHRISTMAS SPECIAL, "Bro, Ikaw ang Star ng Pasko," held at the Big Dome on Dec. 13, was both a thanksgiving show and a preview of what the network has in store for 2010.

Zaijian Jaranilla, who plays the lead role of Santino in the top-rating drama "May Bukas Pa," led the opening number. "He talked about the true meaning of Christmas," said Special Projects Group head [illegible], who was also the show's executive producer.

Zaijian and the show are major finds brought to the network in 2009, [illegible]. When the show winds up in January, he said, Zaijian will work on a movie and another teleserye.

A highlight of the three-hour show at the Big Dome was the announcement of the yearlong "50 years of Soap Opera" celebration. Judy Ann Santos, who first appeared in Channel 2's "Mara Clara," in the '90s, was declared "The Face of Soap Opera."

[illegible] sang the theme song of Judy Ann's coming series "Habang May Buhay." [illegible] and Gary Valenciano, [illegible] of two other forthcoming shows "Tanging Yaman" and "Kung Tayo'y Magkakalayo."

Gabby Concepcion and daughter KC featured a segment. "They had never worked on a show together," [illegible] said. KC and Gabby are set to do a [illegible] film.

"Love Triangles Medley" featured songs by onscreen "love triangles"—KC, [illegible] and Zanjoe Marudo of "Lovers in Paris"; Erich Gonzales, Enchong Dee and [illegible] of "[illegible]"; Jericho Rosales, Kristine Hermosa and [illegible] of "Dahil May Isang Ikaw"; Bea Alonzo, John Lloyd Cruz and Sam Milby of "I Love Betty la Fea."

"Lady Gaga" featured Comedy King Dolphy with Vhong Navarro, John Lloyd Cruz, Billy Crawford and Luis Manzano. The "[illegible]" medley starred Martin Nievera, [illegible] and Christian Bautista. Pokwang, [illegible] and [illegible] impersonated presidential candidates.

Network president Charo Santos-Concio led the singing of "Star ng Pasko," station ID, and "[illegible] Christmas all Over the World."

"Star ng Pasko" was directed by Johnny Manahan. Conclusion of the two-part series airs [illegible] tonight.



SAM Milby and John Lloyd Cruz do a duet.

Maja…

From page [illegible]

[illegible]



















PLDT Bilis Kabit
Ready, Set, Kabit!
Maaga ang pasko sa Caloocan, Malabon at Pampanga dahil may instant PLDT landline at internet agad-agad!
PLDT landline
Internet @HOME
24 hours lang, connected agad! Bilis kabit talaga!
"Merry talaga ang Christmas dahil sa bilis nakabit at na-activate ng PLDT Internet@Home"
GET ONE NOW! CALL 101-128
CALL 171
PLDT

Fil-Am actor bares details of new John Sayles film







ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD



Ruben V. Nepales



ARTHUR Acuña as Lieh in "Chimerica" at the Goodman Theatre in Chicago

Original cast member

Film credits

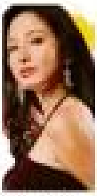
Gay politico loves action stars

By the Entertainment staff

Bong spotting in ABS-CBN

Network 'rigodon'

Bitch prop for troubled star



KATRINA Halili



SAM Milby

Missing in action

'Sis' in dire straits?

* * *

Top of the tabloids

RUSHES SUNDAY





ENTERTAINMENT

Christmas without mom, missing the little things



RODERICK Paulate with mom Paz

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

IT'S THE ORDINARY EVERYDAY things that actor Roderick Paulate misses the most, now that Paz, his beloved mom, is gone.

[illegible]

Message of 'Dod na si Lolo' resonated with actor

[illegible]

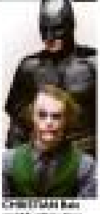
Out of love

[illegible]

Actors should look like the people…

'Batman' movies marathon

HBO AIRS A SERIES OF BATMAN movies on Dec. 27, with "The Dark Knight," the latest chapter in the Batman franchise, premiering at 9 p.m.



CHRISTIAN Bale and Heath Ledger

Actors should look like the people they're playing

Vilma as Cory is okay; Piolo or Cesar as Ninoy is a lot less believable



VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre















